

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04997 090938Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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O 090838Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WAHSDC IMMEDIATE 7135

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4997

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, IS, US  
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN: WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

REF: STATE 155436

1. I SAW BEGIN IN HIS JERUSALEM OFFICE FOR ABOUT AN HOUR ON JULY 8. ALSO PRESENT WERE MOSHE RAVIV, ELI MIZRACHI, AND FSO JOHN HIRSCH. BEGIN WAS IN A GOOD MOOD, ALERT AND RELAXED, AND OBVIOUSLY LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON. IN ADDITION TO HIS SCHEDULE, WE ALSO DISCUSSED HIS PLANS FOR HIS MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AS WELL AS THE LEBANESE SITUATION AND SYRIAN JEWRY (SEPTELS).

2. BEGIN TOLD ME THAT HE WILL BE LEAVING ISRAEL ON JULY 15 AT 8 A.M. AND FLYING DIRECTLY TO NEW YORK ON EL AL. OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VISIT, HE SAID, THE MILITARY ARE PREPARING AN AIRPORT CEREMONY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. HE WILL REVIEW AN HONOR GUARD AND FIGHTER PLANS WILL ESCORT HIS AIRCRAFT ON TAKE-OFF OUT OF THE COUNTRY. (I WILL BE AT THE AIRPORT TO SEE HIM OFF AND DEPART FOR WASHINGTON SHORTLY THERE-AFTER.) BEGIN SAID THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO GO NONSTOP, RATHER THAN LAND IN LONDON, IN ORDER TO BE IN NEW YORK BEFORE THE SABBATH BEGINS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 04997 090938Z

3. AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTTEL, I SOUNDED BEGIN OUT ABOUT HIS WASHINGTON SCHEDULE, WHICH HAS BEEN UNDERGOING INTENSIVE WORK HERE THIS WEEK WITH DINITZ. BEGIN SAID THAT HE WAS QUITE SATISFIED WITH IT. ALTHOUGH IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY HEAVY, HE IS DETERMINED "TO SO HIS UTMOST WHILE HE WAS IN WASHINGTON." IN ADDITION TO HIS MEET-

INGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY VANCE, HE HAD TO MEET NOT ONLY WITH THE SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES BUT ALSO SEPARATELY WITH SENATOR JACKSON AND OTHERS FROM CONGRESS.

4. AFTER THE MEEGINS MOSHE RAVIV ASKED ME TO INQUIRE WHETHER IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO KEEP BLAIR HOUSE AVAILABLE FOR THE BEGIN PARTY FOR SEVERAL MORE HOURS AFTER 5 P.M. ON JULY 21 IN CASE THERE ARE MORE MEETINGS SCHEDULED AT THE LAST MINUTE. I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD GET BACK TO HIM ON THIS. PLEASE ADVISE.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE BEGIN'S DETERMINATION TO "DO HIS UTMOST," I THINK THE SCHEDULE IS VERY TIGHT FOR A MAN RECENTLY RECOVERED FROM A HEART ATTACK. THEY HAVE NOW REVISED SOME OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DINITZ'S LARGE RECEPTION (AFTER I QUESTIONED ITS WISDOM) TO AVOID BEGIN'S STANDING FOR TWO HOURS IN A RECEIVING LINE. BUT IT IS HARD TO SEE MUCH ELSE WHICH CAN BE CHANGED IN THE OFFICIAL PORTION OF THE SCHEDULE.

6. DESPITE THE ABOVE, IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE BEGIN ATTACHES TO CEREMONY AND TO THE PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF U.S./ISRAELI RELATIONS, YOU MIGHT WISH TO SUGGEST ONE ADDITION TO THE SCHEDULE, PERHAPS ON JULY 21, A WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AT THE TOMB OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 04997 090938Z

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER. IN HIS SPEECH AT THE ISRAELI-AMERICAN SOCIETY LUNCHEON ON JULY 1, BEGIN EMPHASIZED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE U.S. ROLE IN WORLD WARS I AND II IN PROTECTING WESTERN FREEDOMS. IN THIS CONTEXT, I THINK HE WOULD ATTACH GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AND WOULD APPRECIATE IT.

7. WE ALSO SHOULD BE CAREFUL TO PAY ATTENTION TO CERTAIN SMALL BUT IMPORTANT DETAILS. AT THE AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONY, MRS. VANCE MAY WANT TO GIVE A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS TO MRS. BEGIN. A BILINGUAL ENGLISH/ HEBREW BIBLE COULD WELL BE PLACED IN THEIR LIVING ROOM AT BLAIR HOUSE.

8. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT BEGIN HAS NO SPECIAL DIETARY RESTRICTIONS. HOWEVER, AS A MATTER OF COURTESY, NO SHELLFISH OR PORK PRODUCTS SHOULD BE SERVED TO ANY OF THE GUESTS.

9. FINALLY, SPECIAL ATTENTION OUGHT TO BE PAID TO THE TOASTS WHICH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY WILL PROPOSE. THESE OBVIOUSLY PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT

OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT WHAT-  
SOEVER REGARDING THE DURABILITY AND STRENGTH OF OUR  
COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL. IN ADDITION, BEGIN WOULD BE  
PARTICULARLY APPRECIATIVE OF ANY PERSONAL REMARKS WHICH  
HIGHLIGHT ESTEEM FOR HIM--AS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE, A  
LEADER OF A SMALL BUT GREAT DEMOCRACY, AND A MAN DEEPLY  
COMMITTED TO SEEKING PEACE. TO THE EXTENT THE TOASTS  
CAN STRESS OUR CONFIDENCE IN HIM AS SOMEBODY WITH  
WHOM WE ARE NOW WORKING CLOSELY AND WITH WHOM WE WILL  
CONTINUE TO WORK IN A CLOSE AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP  
IN OUR COMMON SEARCH FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLE-  
MENT, THE MORE IMPACT THEY WILL HAVE ON HIS APPROACH  
TO THE MEETINGS. BEGIN SETS A GREAT STORE BY THE  
SPOKEN WORD, AND TAKES SPEECHES VERY SERIOUSLY. HE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 TEL AV 04997 090938Z

IS LIKELY TO QUOTE A PHRASE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S  
TOAST FOR WEEKS AFTERWARD.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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